

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 14-24 and 30-33 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-8, 14-24 and 30-33 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 3-7, 14-17, 19-23 and 30-33 have been amended.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 8-14, 17-21, 24-30 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,804,657 issued to Sultan ("Sultan"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

While not conceding that Sultan qualifies as prior art, but instead to expedite prosecution, Applicants have chosen to traverse the rejection by amending the claims as follows. Applicant reserves the right, for example, in a continuing application, to establish that Sultan does not qualify as prior art as to an invention embodiment previously, currently, or subsequently claimed.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 14, 17, 30 and 33 to at least include a limitation related to associating state information with generated forecasts and modifying the state information. Associated dependent claims depending upon these independent claims have also been amended to provide consistent language. Applicants submit that these limitations find support within the present Application, at least in Figure 15 and associated text at pp. 20-21, and therefore do not add new matter.


Applicants respectfully submit that Sultan does not appear to provide disclosure of state information associated with forecasts, as provided in the amended claims. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants request Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections as to those claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

Applicants have further amended the various claims to correct formal issues with those claims. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not narrow the scope of these claims nor do these amendments add new matter to the Application.

CONCLUSION

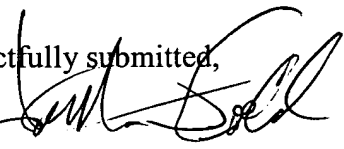
In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5090.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 14, 2006.


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Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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